

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 03692 071135Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /098 W
-----085140 071152Z /53

R 071043Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2428
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY JUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3692

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, SS, MO, MR, AG
SUBJ: SHARA DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: JULY 3 RAID AGAINST NOUAKCHOTT HAS RECEIVED LOW KEY, FACTUAL TREATMENT IN MOROCCAN PRESS, ALTHOUGH GOM HAS SHOWN PRIVATE CONCERN. ACTING FONMIN CHERKAOUI JULY 5 EXPRESSED HOPE TO UNDER SECRETARY BENSON THAT FRIENDS SUCH AS U.S. WOULD COUNSEL MODERATION ON ALGERIANS. OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON SAHARA, ACCEPTED "IN PRINCIPLE" BY GOM, VIEWED IN RABAT AS UNLIKELY TO MATERIALIZE. MEANWHILE, ANTI-ALGERIAN RHETORIC REMAINS HARSH. END SUMMARY

2. JULY 3 NOUAKCHOTT RAID HAS RECEIVED LOW-KEY, FACTUAL TREATMENT IN MOROCCAN PRESS, WITH EMPHASIS ON FORE-KNOWLEDGE OF PRESENCE OF RAIDING PARTY, RAPID RETURN TO CALM, AND MINOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 03692 071135Z

PHYSICAL IMPACT OF ATTACK. INFO MINISTER TAIBI BENHIMA JULY 4 ALSO PRIVATELY DOWNPLAYED RAID TO US AS A "SUICIDE MISSION" CARRIED OUT WITH INSIDE COMPLICITY AND DESIGNED MAINLY FOR POLITICAL EFFECT ON OAU SUMMIT.

3. DURING MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY LUCY WILSON BENSON ON JULY 5, HOWEVER, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED CHERKAOUI

CHARACTERIZED RAID AS "VERY SERIOUS." HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AIR FORCE CHIEF COLONEL MOHAMED KABBAJ AND CHIEF OF OPERATIONS OF GENERAL STAFF COLONEL ABDELAZIZ BENNANI HAD LEFT SUDDENLY FOR NOUAKCHOTT LATE JULY 4.

4. CHERKAOUI STATED THAT MOROCCO INTENDED TO DO ANYTHING NECESSARY TO SUPPORT MAURITANIA AGAINST EXTERNAL THREAT. MOROCCO ALSO HOPED THAT FRIENDS -- SUCH AS THE U.S., WITH ITS EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA -- WOULD COUNSEL MODERATION ON THE ALGERIANS. AREA TENSIONS COULD GET OUT OF HAND IF ALGERIANS CONTINUED THEIR AGGRESSIONS.

5. ON LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT DECISION TO HOLD SPECIAL SUMMIT ON SAHARA IN LUSAKA DURING FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER, CHERKAOUI UNDERLINED THAT MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN "IN PRINCIPLE." ACTUAL CONVENING WAS SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE BY A QUORUM OF INVITATION FOR SPECIFIC DATE TO BE ISSUED BY OAU SECRETARIAT, AND PREVIOUS INVITATIONS HAD ENCOUNTERED INADEQUATE RESPONSE. WHILE ALGERIANS HAD SUCCEEDED IN DRAWING OAU'S ATTENTION TO SAHARA ISSUE, IT WAS BY NO MEANS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT SUFFICIENT SUPPORT WOULD NOW BE MUSTERED, CHERKAOUI CONCLUDED. (SEVERAL OTHER MFA OFFICIALS AT LUNCHEON SAME DAY VIEWED SPECIAL SUMMIT AS UNLIKELY.)

6. SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATINS'S REPORT JULY 6 ON SPECIAL SUMMIT QUOTED HEAD OF MOROCCO'S LIBREVILLE DELEGATION, PRIME MINISTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 03692 071135Z

OSMAN, AS STATING THAT GOM'S PARTICIPATION WOULD DEPEND ON QUORUM. ARTICLE ALSO NOTED OULD DADDAH'S CONDITION THAT SAHARA MEETING SHOULD BE AT CHIEFS-OF-STATE LEVEL ONLY.

7. MEANWHILE, CONTINUING HARSH LINE ON ALGERIA WAS EXEMPLIFIED BY JULY 5 SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC SOIR EDITORIAL CALLING FOR EXPULSION OF ALGERIA FROM OAU. PAPER PORTRAYED BOUMEDIENE REGIME AS THE SOURCE OF ALL EVILS AFFECTING AFRICA, INCLUDING INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS, USE OF MERCENARIES, SUBVERSION, HOLDING OF REFUGEES AS HOSTAGES, AND DIRECT AGGRESSION. EDITORIAL SAW NAOUAKCHOTT RAID AS PROOF BOUMEDIENE WAS ON THE ROPES, POINTING UP MOROCCAN FIRMNESS AS FACTOR FOR STABILITY IN REGION.
ANDERSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT03692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0266
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770782/aaaactoj.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6158a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1936799
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHARA DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PBOR, SS, MO, MR, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6158a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009